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## FAX COVER SHEET

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#### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A dot mark forming method for obtaining a dot mark includes a liquid crystal mask in which the maximum length of each pixel is 50 to 2,000  $\mu\text{m}$  and is irradiated with a homogenized laser beam. The energy density of a split laser beam passed through the liquid crystal mask is set to 1.0 to 15.0  $\text{J}/\text{cm}^2$  and is condensed after the mask by a lens unit so that the maximum length of each dot becomes 1 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ . A single dot mark is formed on each laser irradiated point. The dot mark has a protrusion in the center which protrudes upward from the surface of the article to be marked. The length along the surface of the article is 1 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$  and the height of the protrusion is 0.01 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .